



SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

ORDER PAPER

No.14

33

TUESDAY 2ND JULY, 2013

PRAYERS

OBITUARIES

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE SITTINGS HELD ON
16TH and 27TH MAY, 6TH, 7TH and 12TH JUNE 2013**

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEES

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS

1. The Honourable Arnhim Eustace, (Leader of the Opposition), to ask the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, National Security, Legal Affairs and Grenadines Affairs:

There is considerable discussion nationally about the estimated completion date of the Argyle International Airport, could the Honourable Prime Minister please state the estimated completion date.
2. The Honourable Arnhim Eustace, (Leader of the Opposition), to ask the Honourable Minister of Tourism Sports and culture:

This year's winter tourist season has passed for the first half of the year, could the Honourable Minister give the arrival by category for the period, January to May, 2013 as compared with the same period in 2012.
3. The Honourable Arnhim Eustace, (Leader of the Opposition), to ask the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, National Security, Legal Affairs and Grenadines Affairs;

With regard to the diesel that is used by the International Airport Development Company and/or others to perform work at or on behalf of the Argyle International Airport project:

Is this diesel procured through or from VINLEC and if so:

- a. Is this diesel accounted for by VINLEC separately from diesel that is included in the computation of the fuel surcharge on Electricity bills;
- b. Is VINLEC paid the full and current price for this diesel such that there is no subsidization by VINLEC of the cost of the diesel and
- c. Are any such payments due to VINLEC up to date or in arrears and if in arrears, what is the total amount in arrears.

4. Dr. the Honourable Godwin Friday, (Northern Grenadines), to ask the Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, National Security, Legal Affairs and Grenadines Affairs:

Several weeks ago a fire destroyed a house on Mt. Pleasant Road in Bequia. The response of the police to the fire showed that they were ill-prepared in that their fire truck proved inadequate to the task as it had to leave the scene repeatedly to refill with water, the officers lacked basic equipment such as smoke masks, helmets, boots, flashlights, water pumps and cutting tools and there was no coordination and control of the scene by the police.

Will the Prime Minister review the level of preparedness of the police in Bequia and elsewhere where necessary to ensure that essential equipment and tools, including gas-powered water pumps in the Grenadines, are provided to enhance the effectiveness of the police when responding to fires.

5. Dr. the Honourable Godwin Friday, (Northern Grenadines), to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport and Works, Urban Development and Local Government:

The roads leading to Fort Hamilton (a.k.a. Point Hill) and to Mount Pleasant Bequia have deteriorated to the point where it is difficult to drive on them safely. Mt. Pleasant Road, for example, has broken apart in some areas posing a real danger to vehicles that travel on it. Yet, despite calls from residents, taxi drivers and others for remedial action and despite promises by the Minister to fix them, no work has been done.

Will the Minister state what progress if any has been made to fix those roads and when we can expect actual work to repair them to commence.

6. Dr. the Honourable Godwin Friday, (Northern Grenadines), to ask the Honourable Minister of Tourism, Sports and Culture:

Why is the government removing the ban on the importation and use of jet skis in this country and will you reconsider your position in that regard in light of the strong and reasoned opposition to the decision expressed by many people, including stakeholders in the tourism industry.

7. The Honourable Terrence Ollivierre, (Southern Grenadines), to ask the Honourable Minister of Health, Wellness and the Environment:

The people of Mayreau have been without the services of a nurse since the latter months of 2012, additionally, the Mayreau clinic is in a state of disrepair and the residents are forced to travel to Union Island at times for basic health care. Will the Honourable Minister please state:

- a. When will a nurse be sent to Mayreau to care for the people;
- b. When will work commence to repair the Mayreau Clinic so as to restore basic health care to the people of this island.

8. The Honourable Terrence Ollivierre, (Southern Grenadines), to ask the Minister of Transport and Works Urban Development and Local Government:

Restoration work was to commence in 2012 on three pieces of roads in Union Island, namely: (1) Top Road in Ashton Union from Mrs. Adella James's residence to Mrs. Norma Thomas's residence, (2) The Murray Village Road from Park East to Mr. Lambert Baptiste's residence, (3) The main road from Bajan Corner, Clifton to Cross Road, Ashton.

It was indicated in this Honourable House since October 2012 that these projects were listed in the maintenance programme for 2012 into 2013. Will the Honourable Minister please state:

- a. If work on these roads are included in the maintenance programme for 2013;
- b. If so when will work commence on these roads to ensure safety to commuters and pedestrians.

9. The Honourable St. Clair Leacock, (Central Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, National Security, Legal Affairs and Grenadines Affairs:

Would the Honourable Prime Minister please provide the following financial statements on the following companies: International Airport Development Company and National Properties Limited;

- a. Their income statements, audited or unaudited for the years 2012, 2011 and 2010.
- b. Their Balance Sheets for the same period.
- c. The total amount of Government Investments in both companies for the same period.
- d. Please provide a breakdown to date of Government's contribution by way of grants, loans, equity, guarantees, etc.

10. The Honourable St. Clair Leacock, (Central Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Minister of Tourism, Sports and Culture.

- a. Would the Honourable Minister please indicate whether the government is still committed to a system of annual National Awards.
- b. If the answer is in the affirmative, what is the cause of the delay.

11. The Honourable St. Clair Leacock, Member of Parliament for Central Kingstown, to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport and Works Urban Development and Local Government:

- a. While the Fenton Road rehabilitation is not in the approved work programme for 2013, is any consideration being given for the 2014 Estimates.

12. The Honourable Daniel Cummings (West Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Minister of Housing, Informal Human Settlements, Physical Planning Lands and Surveys.

Some of the families in Buddy Gutter, who have been forced to buy alternative parcels of land to facilitate the Lowmans Bay power plant, are under threat from flooding and landslides. NEMO officials have requested two of them to halt construction because of the threat posed to their lives by earth movements and rock falls, which in one case has resulted in a major crack in the structure.

Would the Honourable Minister please state what steps would be taken by his Ministry to solve this pressing problem which is imposed on the residents by his own Ministry's decision to sell them these endangered lots.

13. The Honourable Daniel Cummings, (West Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport and Works, Urban Development and Local Government:

The main concrete road leading into Buddy Gutter adjacent to the Lowmans power plant was damaged over several years ago. Recently, there was a major slide which completely destroyed a portion of the said road, leaving the residents stranded. The residents are grateful for the temporary relief caused by the improvement in the alternative road along the river, by the contractor on site, even though it is often blocked by construction trucks and is rapidly deteriorating.

Would the Honourable Minister please state if the same dispatch which is used to shore up the VINLEC compound would be employed to fix the damaged road and the rest of the unpaved portion of the road into the impoverished community of Buddy Gutter.

14. The Honourable Roland Matthews, (North Leeward), to ask the Honourable Minister of Tourism, Sports and Culture:

The construction of the playing field in Troumaca has restarted after it was shelved in 2010. Will the Honourable Minister please state:

- a. What is the estimated cost of this facility;
- b. How much of the total cost has been expended thus far;
- c. Has there been any environmental impact study carried out on this project, bearing in mind the heavy erosion that took place when the project started in 2010;
- d. When would this sporting facility be ready for public usage.

15. The Honourable Roland Matthews, (North Leeward), to ask the Honourable Minister of Agriculture Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation and Industry.

During the 2013 Budget debate it was indicated by the Minister of Agriculture of the introduction of a credit facility for farmers. Will the Honourable Minister please state:

- a. From which financial institution is this facility available;
- b. How many farmers have so far benefitted from this facility;
- c. What is the rate of interest available from this facility;
- d. What method is being used to inform famers of the availability of this facility.

16. The Honourable Nigel Stephenson, (South Leeward), to ask the Honourable Minister of National Mobilization, Social Development, the Family, Youth and persons with Disabilities:

The roof of the Campden Park Community Centre has collapsed for the past several years depriving the community of its intended purpose:

Will the Honourable Minister please indicate whether or not there is any intention to restore the roof and if yes, when can the community of Campden Park be reasonably expected to have use of the facility.

17. The Honourable Nigel Stephenson, (South Leeward), to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport and Works, Urban Development and Local Government:

Please give an update of the status of the Leeward Highway with respect to plans for its rehabilitation.

18. The Honourable Nigel Stephenson, (South Leeward), to ask the Honourable Minister of Tourism Sports and Culture:

The pavilion at the Campden Park Playing Field has been in a deplorable condition for years and many promises have been made to have it refurbished:

Will the Honourable Minister please state definitely when work will begin on that facility.

19. Dr. The Honourable Linton Lewis, (Senator), to ask the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, National Security, Legal Affairs and Grenadines Affairs:

Given the importance of Tourism as the main contributor to the economy of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and in the light of the unfortunate and in some instances alarming incidents of theft taking place aboard yachts being berthed within our waters. Will the Honourable Minister please state:

- a. Whether any steps are being made to reduce substantially the incidents of theft on board yachts that are moored within our waters and if so;
- b. What are the steps that are being taken.

20. Dr. The Honourable Linton Lewis, (Senator), to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport and Works, Urban Development and Local Government:

Prior to 2010 General Elections the construction of a road commenced on the borders of the Glen/Fairhall area and the Fountain/Villa area. The said road runs parallel to the Central Water and Sewage Authority Tank which is located at the crest of the hill in the Glen/Fairhall area over looking Fountain. Will the Honourable Minister please state.

- a. Whether there are plans for the completion of the construction of the said road and if so;
- b. When will construction work resume on the road

21. Dr. The Honourable Linton Lewis, (Senator), to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport and Works, Urban Development and Local Government:

For months, the drains on the western and eastern sides of the Calliaqua Playing Field and in front of the Calliaqua Police Station have been terribly polluted and due to the stench and the relatively high levels of the water are health hazards to persons located in those areas. Will the Honourable Minister please state?

- a. Whether any action will be taken to effectively clean the gutters and if so;
- b. When would such action be taken.

22. The Honourable Vynnette Frederick, (Senator), to ask the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, National Security, Legal Affairs and Grenadines Affairs:

The recent decision by Cabinet to make it impossible in some circumstances for lawyers to apply for and receive birth certificates from the Registry of Births and Deaths on behalf of their clients, has made it costly and difficult for individuals to make applications for declarations of paternity after death, to produce evidence in some contentious matters where age of one party must be proven by the other, and to do nominal and other estates where beneficiaries live outside St. Vincent.

Indeed, especially for those persons living overseas, the cost of proving their identity and giving permission to a third party raises the cost of a \$15.00 birth certificate to almost \$500.00 in some cases. In light of these difficulties will the Minister consider suspending these new requirements in circumstances where Lawyers are functioning for clients and can detail this on the application form. This matter requires urgent review.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

(Government Orders are marked thus*)

MOTIONS

RESOLUTION

BANANA INDUSTRY (VARIATION OF LICENCE FEE) ORDER 2013

To be moved by Dr. the Honourable Ralph Gonsalves, Prime Minister/Minister of Finance.

WHEREAS under section 14 (1) of the Banana Industry Act 2009, No. 3 of 2009, the Minister responsible for finance may by order vary the fees set out in section 12 of the Act or the proportions set out in section 13 of the Act;

AND WHEREAS pursuant to section 14 (2) of the said Act an order made under section 14 (1) is subject to negative resolution of the House of Assembly;

AND WHEREAS the Banana Industry (Variation of Licence Fee) Order 2013 was made by the Minister of Finance on 15 May 2013 and published in the *Gazette* on 28 May 2013 as S.R. & O No. 13 of 2013;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Assembly pass the Banana Industry (Variation of Licence Fee) Order 2013.

BILLS

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|---|-------------------------|
| 1. Public Sector Loan Bill, 2013
(Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of Finance) | 1 st Reading |
| 2. Loan Authorisation Bill, 2013
(Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of Finance) | 1 st Reading |
| 3. Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 2013
(Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of Finance) | 1 st Reading |
| 4. Succession to the Crown Bill, 2013
(Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of Finance) | 1 st Reading |
| 5. St. Joseph Spiritual Baptist Church Incorporation Bill, 2013
(Honourable Mr. Speaker) | 2 nd Reading |
| 6. Immanuel Christ Gospel Church Incorporation Bill, 2013
(Honourable Mr. Speaker) | 2 nd Reading |
| 7. Grace Community Baptist Church Incorporation Bill, 2013
(Honourable Mr. Speaker) | 2 nd Reading |
| 8. Redeemed Christian Church of God Winners Sanctuary
Incorporation Bill, 2013
(Honourable Mr. Speaker) | 2 nd Reading |

ADJOURNMENT